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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/519,748

12/29/2004

Akihiro Matsuda

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12/04/2008

FITZPATRICK CELLA HARPER & SCINTO
30 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, NY 10112

EXAMINER

SILBERMANN, JOANNE

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3611

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

12/04/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/519,748	Applicant(s) MATSUDA ET AL.	
	Examiner Joanne Silberman	Art Unit 3611	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 August 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 6/1 and 9/1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradshaw et al. EP 0 333 502 B1 in view of McGaffigan, WO 98/53348.

3. Bradshaw teaches a retroreflective, internally illuminated sign which comprises an information display section having at least one flat surface 44 which retroreflects light coming from the front of the sign (automobile headlights, column 5 lines 31-32) and transmits light from the interior of the sign (light source 42) behind the information display section. Housing members 41 (figure 4) enclose the sign. Retroreflective elements 49 comprise totally internally reflective material (column 6 lines 11-12). A large number of such elements are disposed in close contact with each other to form each retroreflective plane.

4. Bradshaw does not teach the retro reflective elements having no bonded area with other layers, however this is well known in the art as shown by McGaffigan. It would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to utilize layers that are not bonded, as in McGaffigan, so as to provide better illumination for the display. Regarding claim 9, McGaffigan also teaches a cylindrical shape. It would have been

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obvious to one of ordinary skill to utilize ea shape which provides the best surface for the display.

5. Claims 2, 3, 6/2, 6/3, 8, 9/2, and 9/3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradshaw and McGaffigan as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Mimura et al. EP 1 136 847 A2.

6. Bradshaw and McGaffigan do not teach the specific details of the cube corner elements however such elements are taught by Mimura. Mimura teaches triangular-pyramidal cube-corner elements in closely packed pairs etc. as specifically described in the Abstract and paragraphs [0039] through [0042]. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to utilize such specific retroreflective elements so that a highly visible sign may be produced.

7. Claims 4/1 and 5/4/1 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradshaw et al. and McGaffigan as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Toshiba Corp. JP9-291280 A.

8. Bradshaw and McGaffigan do not teach a display wherein the daylight color is fluorescent, however this is well known in the art as shown by Toshiba. Toshiba teaches a sign having a daylight fluorescent color of appropriate YF value. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to utilize such a fluorescent color in the display of Bradshaw (as modified) to provide a better illuminated display.

9. Claims 4/2, 4/3, 5/4/2, and 5/4/3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradshaw et al., McGaffigan and Mimura et al. as applied to claims 2 and 3 above, and further in view of Toshiba.

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10. Bradshaw, McGaffigan and Mimura do not teach the daylight color as being fluorescent, however it would have been obvious to utilize such a color for the same reasons as described above.

11. Claim 7/6/1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradshaw et al. and McGaffigan as applied to claim 6/1 above, and further in view of Abe et al. WO 99/04604.

12. Bradshaw and McGaffigan do not teach using electroluminescence however this is well known in the art as shown by Abe. Abe teaches a luminescent device for a display. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill to utilize such a light source so that an efficient light source may be provided for the display.

13. Claims 7/6/2 and 7/6/3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bradshaw et al., McGaffigan and Mimura et al. as applied to claims 6/2 and 6/3 above, and further in view of Abe et al.

14. It would have been obvious to utilize an electroluminescent source for the same reasons as described above.

Response to Arguments

15. Applicant's arguments filed August 13, 2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

16. Applicant states that the retroreflective part on the back of McGaffigan's prismatic retroreflective elements has no area bonded to other layers but teaches this at only the end portions. As discussed in the rejection, Bradshaw teaches the retroreflective portion as reflecting light from outside the sign. The McGaffigan reference is combined

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with Bradshaw to teach no bonded areas between the retroreflective elements and other layers. Together these references teach the elements of the instant claims.

Conclusion

17. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Joanne Silbermann whose telephone number is 571-272-6653. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 5:30 - 2:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on 571-272-6651. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Joanne Silberman
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3611

/Joanne Silberman/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3611
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